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STEP – Support and Techniques for Empowering People  
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Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council • The Disability Network  
iTelehealth, Inc. • American Telemedicine Association • Southern Sierra Medical Clinic

Date: September 20, 2001

Re: ET Docket 98-153 /

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to you in response to the Federal Communications Commission's notice of proposed rulemaking on ultrawideband technology. We encourage the FCC to quickly move forward to allow this new wireless technology to be put to use in the service of public safety, education and public health.

As representatives of organizations and individuals who serve the public in a variety of ways, we are interested in the benefits that this new technology can bring to help us do our jobs. For example:

- Providing public safety personnel with short-range communications technologies for emergencies, tracking firefighters inside a building or detecting victims under earthquake rubble.

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- Supporting low cost, high-speed wireless devices for schools and students connecting to the Internet and local area networks, and helping to solve the expensive problem of retrofitting older buildings or providing broadband connectivity to support educational applications in the classroom.
- Creating new ways for medical personnel to monitor and track the location of patients and medical equipment, enabling real-time transmission of health information to emergency personnel, and enhancing the safety and independence of elderly individuals or persons with disabilities.

We encourage you to move forward with consideration of this important issue and to provide Americans with the opportunity to put new technologies to use to save lives and benefit the public. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/  
 National Fraternal Order of Police  
 Steve Young  
 National President  
 5900 Jefferson NE, Suite F  
 Albuquerque, NM 87109  
 Contact: Tim Richardson 202 547-8189

By: /s/  
 National Volunteer Fire Council  
 Philip C. Stittleburg  
 Chairman  
 1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 490  
 Washington, DC 20038  
 Contact: Craig Sharman 202-887-5700 x12

By: /s/  
 Virtual Education, Inc.  
 Michelle Robinson  
 President & CEO  
 161 E. Lake Brantley Drive  
 Longwood, FL 32779  
 Contact: Michelle Robinson 407-774-8001

By: /s/  
 RUSH – Presbyterian – St. Luke's Medical Center  
 Russ Zajchuk, M.D.  
 Vice President  
 Advanced Technology and International Health  
 707 South Wood Street, Suite 220  
 Chicago, IL 60612  
 Contact Russ Zajchuk: 312-942-6348

By: /s/  
Iowa Department of Education  
John O'Connell  
Consultant Instructional Technology  
Bureau of Instructional Services  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

By: /s/  
University of Mississippi  
Robert C. Khayat  
Chancellor  
P.O. Box 1848  
University, MS 38677

By: /s/  
Houston Police Department  
Richard Klexzynski  
Lieutenant  
Tactical Operations Division  
1200 Travis  
Houston, TX 77002-6000

By: /s/  
County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department  
Sid Heal  
Sergeant  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, CA 91754-2169

By: /s/  
Fairfax County Search & Rescue  
Mike Regan  
Search Team Manager  
3101 Hodge Place  
Falls Church, VA 22042

By: /s/  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
Nancy J. Sharp, MSN, RN  
ACNP Telehealth Consultant  
8819 Ridge Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817

By: /s/  
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)  
Keith Krueger  
Executive Director  
1555 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

By: /s/  
Irmo Fire District  
Greg Mundy  
Deputy Chief  
P.O. Box 31  
Irmo, SC 29063

By: /s/  
METRO Area Agency on Aging  
James D. Recco  
Director  
P.O. Box 518  
Institute, WV 25112-1000

By: /s/  
Leesburg Fire Department  
Geoff Beyer  
Deputy Fire Chief  
201 S. Canal Street  
Leesburg, FL 34748

By: /s/  
Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet)  
Steve Ronan  
Managing Director  
372 Broadway Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

By: /s/  
NAMI Ohio  
Terry L. Russell  
Executive Director  
747 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43205

By: /s/  
STEP – Support and Techniques for Empowering People  
Dan MacDonald  
Res. Prog. Director  
1501 14<sup>th</sup> Street West, Suite 210  
Billings, MT 59102

By: /s/  
Senior Citizens, Inc.  
Kelly Blair  
Director Senior Companion Program  
1801 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203

By: /s/  
City of Farmington Department of Public Safety  
Gary M. Goss  
Public Safety Director  
23600 Liberty Street  
Farmington, MI 48335

By: /s/  
University of Arkansas for Medical Services  
Ann Bynum  
Director, UAMS Rural Hospital Program  
1123 S. University, Suite 400  
Little Rock, AR 72204

By: /s/  
Singing River Hospital  
Mark S. Lyell, MD  
Chief of Staff  
2809 Denny Ave.  
Pascagoula, MS 39581

By: /s/  
Groveland Police Department  
R.S. Barr  
Sergeant  
408 West Orange Street  
Groveland, FL 34736

By: /s/  
Tallahassee Senior Center  
Sheila Salyer  
Director  
1400 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

By: /s/  
The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association  
Sally Dwyer  
Director  
8340 Mission Road, Suite B-4  
Prairie Village, KS 66206

By: /s/  
Comprehensive Cancer Institute  
Noel Estopinal, M.D.  
201 Sivley Road SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801

By: /s/  
Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center  
David Liss  
Vice President, Government Relations & Strategic Initiatives  
161 Fort Washington Avenue  
New York, NY 10032

By: /s/  
Tennessee Disability Coalition  
Carol Westlake  
Executive Director  
480 Craighead Street, Suite 200

By: /s/  
American Academy of Dermatology  
Cheryl Hayden  
930 N. Meacham Road  
Schaumburg, IL 60168-4014

By: /s/  
Roane County Committee on Aging, Inc.  
Scott McClanahan  
Executive Director  
811 Madison Avenue  
Spencer, WV 25276

By: /s/  
Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management  
Bob Spencer  
Director  
2035 North 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85008

By: /s/  
NAMI Kansas  
Elizabeth Adams  
Executive Director  
112 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 505  
Topeka, KS 66601

By: /s/  
South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities  
Shelly Pfaff  
Executive Director  
221 South Central Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

By: /s/  
The Arc of Tennessee  
Walter Rogers  
Executive Director  
1719 West End Avenue, Suite 300E  
Nashville, TN 37203

By: /s/  
Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses  
Danielle N. Rastetter  
President and Director  
1216 Tiber Hawk Trail  
Dayton, OH 45458

By: /s/  
Iberia Medical Center  
James Youree  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
2315 East Main Street  
New Iberia, LA 70562-3338

By: /s/  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Daniel Sisto  
President  
One Empire Drive  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

By: /s/  
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative  
Tim Size  
Executive Director  
880 Independence Lane  
Sauk City, WI 53583

By: /s/  
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council  
Woody Osburn  
Executive Director  
259 East Livingston Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43215

By: /s/  
The Disability Network  
Mike Zelle  
Executive Director  
3600 S. Dort Hwy #54  
Flint, MI 48507

By: /s/  
iTelehealth  
Loretta Schlachta-Fairchild, PhD  
President & CEO  
6935 North Clifton Road  
Frederick, MD 21702

By: /s/  
American Telemedicine Association  
Rosa A. Tang, M.D.  
President, ICOT  
Room 336 Clinical Sciences Bldg.  
Galveston, TX 77555-0787

By: /s/  
Southern Sierra Medical Clinic  
Earl W. Ferguson, M.D.  
1041 N. China Lake Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555